

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A RANTES-derived peptides peptide containing 10 to 19 amino acids, of formula [[
]] (I) :

[[
]] Ac-C-x1-PYI-x2-x3-Y-NH2 (I) (SEQ ID NO: 1)

[[
]]

wherein Ac-represents an acetyl residue, -NH2 a carboxamido terminus, x1 and x3, which can be the same or different, are selected from the group consisting of the hydrophobic residues Phe, Tyr, 1Na1 (L-beta-1- naphthyl-alanine), 2Na1 (L-beta-2-naphthyl-alanine), and Cha (L-beta-cyclohexyl- alanine), and

wherein x2 is a spacer containing 2 to 12 amino acidic residues.

2. (currently amended) ~~Peptides~~ The peptide as claimed in claim 1, wherein x2 is selected from 1) the sequence 16-27 of RANTES, 2) the sequence 16-27 of RANTES in which 1 to 3 amino acidic residues are replaced with different natural or non natural L or D amino acids, 3) the sequence 16-27 of RANTES in which a group of at least two, preferably at least three and

no more than nine residues, either consecutive or non consecutive, is removed.

3. (currently amended) ~~Peptides~~ The peptide as claimed in claim 1, in which x2 is selected from ARPLPR- X-HIKEYF (SEQ ID NO: 2) , ARPLPR-X-HIKEY1Nal (SEQ ID NO: 3), ARPLPR-X-HIKEY2Nal (SEQ ID NO: 4), ARPLPR-X- HIKEYCha (SEQ ID NO: 5), ARPLPR-X-HIF (SEQ ID NO: 6), ARPLPR-X-HYF (SEQ ID NO: 7), ARPLPR-X-EYF (SEQ ID NO: 8), ARPLPRKEYF (SEQ ID NO: 9), ARPLPIKEYF (SEQ ID NO: 10), ARP-X-HIKEYF (SEQ ID NO: 11), wherein X is Ala or Pro.

4. (currently amended) ~~Dimers of the peptides (I) in which A~~ dimer comprising the peptide (I) according to claim 1, wherein two of said peptides are linked by a disulfide bond between Cys residues at position 1.

5. (currently amended) ~~Pharmaceutical compositions containing A~~ pharmaceutical composition comprising as active ingredient a peptide (I) or a dimer thereof as claimed in the above claims according to claim 1.

6. (currently amended) ~~Pharmaceutical compositions as claimed in claim 5, for use in~~ A method for the treatment of diseases in which the RANTES receptor is involved, comprising administering an effective amount of peptide according to claim 1.

7. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for the ~~preparation of~~
~~a medicament useful for the~~ treatment of viral infections,
~~particularly HIV infections,~~ and of inflammatory, allergic,
degenerative, neoplastic or metastatic diseases, which
comprises ~~using~~ administering to a subject in need thereof an
effective amount of the ~~peptides or dimers thereof~~ peptide as
claimed in claim 1.

8. (new) The method according to claim 7, wherein the subject
has an HIV infection.

9. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as active
ingredient a dimer according to claim 4.

10. (new) A method for the treatment of diseases in which the
RANTES receptor is involved, comprising administering an
effective amount of dimer according to claim 4.

11. (new) A method for the treatment of viral infections, and
of inflammatory, allergic, degenerative, neoplastic or
metastatic diseases, which comprises administering to a
subject in need thereof an effective amount of the dimer as
claimed in claim 4.